

California Department of Water Resources

News for Immediate Release

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STATE WATER PROJECT TO DELIVER 70 PERCENT OF REQUESTS

SACRAMENTO --The Department of Water Resources announced plans to increase allocations of 2002 State Water Project water from 65 percent to 70 percent. The allocation represents a percentage of the 3.91 million acre-feet of water requested by its 29 long-term water supply contractors.

This increase is largely due to the Department's ability to capture more water in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta than originally projected. The Department's new approval considered several factors, including existing storage in SWP reservoirs, SWP operational constraints, and 2002 contractors' requests.

To help contractors manage potentially limited water supplies in 2003, a modified 2002 carryover program is available. The modified carryover program will allow contractors to carry over unused SWP water into 2003, provided their plans do not interfere with SWP operations.

An acre-foot of water meets the water needs of about five people for one year. About 70 percent of State Water Project deliveries go to urban users in the San Francisco Bay area, San Joaquin Valley, Northern and Southern California. About 30 percent goes to agricultural users in the San Joaquin Valley.

The SWP met 39 percent of requested deliveries during 2001, 90 percent during 2000, and 100 percent during each of the previous three years.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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